

INTERNET GAMBLING WARNING

The Nebraska Attorney General's Office is committed to upholding the law and making sure Nebraskans are informed. That's why we're issuing this warning about gambling online or via the telephone.

Gambling by telephone or over the Internet is a violation of state and federal law, and individuals or entities engaging in this illegal activity could be subject to criminal prosecution.

The types of illegal gambling offered by telephone or via the Internet include online casinos and services offering wagering on the results of horse races or other sports wagering. The Nebraska Supreme Court has held that only wagers made within the enclosure of a licensed Nebraska racetrack are legal. Therefore, Nebraskans placing wagers on horse races by telephone or over the Internet through wagering services are engaging in unlawful betting.

Some of these online sites or telephone wagering services may advertise that their gaming is "legal" or "licensed." Nebraska law, however, provides "[i]t shall be no defense to a prosecution . . . relating to gambling that the gambling is conducted outside this state and is not in violation of the laws of the jurisdiction in which it is conducted." Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1110 (1995). Thus, while these entities may be legal or licensed where the bets are received, it is still illegal for Nebraskans to place bets from Nebraska through these services.

The only legal forms of gambling in Nebraska are:

1. pari-mutuel wagering on horse races when conducted within a licensed Nebraska racetrack enclosure;
2. bingo conducted by licensed organizations;
3. lotteries and raffles conducted by qualified organizations;
4. county and city lotteries, including keno;
5. pickle cards lotteries conducted by licensed organizations;
6. Nebraska Lottery scratch ticket or online ticket games; and
7. lawful tribal gaming conducted on an Indian reservation located in Nebraska.

Complying with the law is not only the right thing to do it can help prevent the social problems which inevitably result from this type of gambling, which can be particularly addictive due to its ease of access and the anonymity provided by the Internet. Anyone who feels they may have an addiction problem with telephone or Internet gambling, or any other gambling activity, legal or illegal, should contact the Compulsive Gambling Hotline at 1-800-522-4700.